



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/851,911 | 05/09/2001 | John G. Posa | POS-03602/29 | 3950 |

7590 04/17/2002

John G. Posa
Gifford, Krass, Groh et al
Suite 400
280 N. Old Woodward Ave.
Birmingham, MI 48009

EXAMINER

KAVANAUGH, JOHN T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3728

DATE MAILED: 04/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/851,911

Applicant(s)

POSA, JOHN G.

Examiner

Ted Kavanaugh

Art Unit

3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3-28-02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 3728

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 7-10 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 6.
2. Applicant's election without traverse of group I (claims 1-5) in Paper No. 6 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 3932950 (Taber).

Taber teaches a footwear having structure substantially as claimed including a tight matrix of projections (46,46') having a length and width in the range as claimed (see column 2, lines 24-48. The projections 46,46' are inherently capable of being selectively removed and therefore leave personalized imprints on wet sand or other surfaces.

5. Claims 1,3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 9111924 (Ellis).

Art Unit: 3728

Ellis teaches a footwear having structure substantially as claimed including a tight matrix of projections (projections are formed by slits 151; see figures 11A, 11B, 8A, 9) and a non-partitioned border surrounding the matrix (see figures 10A, 10B and 10C). The projections are inherently capable of being selectively removed and therefore leave personalized imprints on wet sand or other surfaces.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taber '950.

Taber teaches footwear substantially as claimed (see the rejection above) except for the sole forming part of a sandal or thong. Taber teaches the "invention relates to footwear generally and more directly to athletic shoes", column 1, lines 4-5. Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide the sole portion as taught above as part of a sandal or thong, to provide traction to the footwear.

8. Claims 2 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis '924.

Ellis teaches footwear substantially as claimed (see the rejection above) except for the sole forming part of a sandal or thong and the length and width of the projections. Ellis teaches "This invention relates generally to the structure of shoes.

Art Unit: 3728

More, specifically...athletic shoes", pg. 1, lines 4-6. Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide the sole portion as taught above as part of a sandal or thong, to provide traction to the footwear. With regard to claims length and width of the projections, it would appear the projections have the range as claimed but assuming they don't, the selection of a suitable size of the projections, would appear to constitute no more than optimization of size by routine experimentation inasmuch as a number of thickness would appear to be suitable depending on the individual wearer and the type of footwear being constructed. That is, the size of the projections (the thickness of the sole) is recognized in the art to be a variable that is result effective. Generally, it is considered to have been obvious to develop workable or even optimum ranges for such variables. For example, see *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 105 USPQ 233 (CCPA 1955) and *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). Since the applicant has not demonstrated or even alleged that the specifically claimed size produces unexpected results, it is our conclusion that it would have been obvious for an artisan with ordinary skill to determine a workable or even optimum size for the projections and thereby arrive at the size (i.e. length and width) as claimed by the applicant.

9. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US 5084988 (Berger).

Berger teaches a sole portion that is partially transparent (8,9,3,4 are all transparent) to permit viewing of the toe tips. It would have been obvious to provide the sole as taught above to being transparent, as taught by Berger, to permit to permit viewing the toes within the shoe to determine whether the shoe is too small.

Art Unit: 3728

Conclusion

Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111. Moreover, "The prompt development of a clear issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims. Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06" MPEP 714.02. The "disclosure" includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.

10. Telephone inquiries regarding the status of applications or other general questions, by persons entitled to the information, "should be directed to the group clerical personnel and not to the examiners. In as much as the official records and applications are located in the clerical section of the examining groups, the clerical personnel can readily provide status information without contacting the examiners", M.P.E.P. 203.08. The Group clerical receptionist number is (703) 308-1148.

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (703) 872-9302 and After Finals to (703) 872-9303 (FORMAL FAXES ONLY). If the previous Fax numbers are not working use any of the following numbers (703) 305-3579 or (703) 305-3580 or (703) 305-3590. Applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account may also use it for filing papers that require a fee. Please identify Examiner Ted Kavanaugh of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

If in receiving this Office Action it is apparent to applicant that certain documents are missing, e.g., copies of references cited, form PTO-1449, form PTO-892, etc., requests for copies of such papers or other general questions should be directed to Tech Center 3700 Customer Service at (703) 306-5648, email CustomerService3700@uspto.gov .

Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Ted Kavanaugh whose telephone number is (703) 308-1244. The examiner can normally be reached on 6AM - 4PM.

Art Unit: 3728


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached at (703) 308-2672.

Other helpful telephone numbers are listed for applicant's benefit.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Allowed Files & Publication | (703) 305-8322 |
| Assignment Branch | (703) 308-9287 |
| Certificates of Correction | (703) 305-8309 |
| Drawing Corrections/Draftsman | (703) 305-8404/8335 |
| Fee Increase Questions | (703) 305-5125 |
| Intellectual Property Questions | (703) 305-8217 |
| Petitions/Special Programs | (703) 305-9282 |
| Terminal Disclaimers | (703) 305-8408 |

If the information desired is not provided above, or has been changed, please do not call the examiner (this is the latest information provided to him) but the general information help line below.

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Information Help line | 1-800-786-9199 |
| Internet PTO-Home Page | http://www.uspto.gov/ |


Ted Kavanaugh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

TK
April 11, 2002